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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL**  
**Held January 24, 2005**

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Konrad E. Herling, Leta M. Mach, Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, and Mayor Judith F. Davis.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in honor of residents Eric S. Holien, Neil Prendable, and Mary E. (Betty) Wynkoop; and former residents Joseph W. Hess, Sr., and Bernard Allen Novak. She also recognized the passing of Robert Potter, husband of New Carrollton City Councilmember Sarah Potter, and Wendell Luther Lund, who served as chair of the family selection division of the Resettlement Administration when the first residents were being chosen to settle Greenbelt. The Mayor then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the consent agenda be approved as presented. The motion passed 5-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Interview, January 10, 2005
- Regular Meeting, January 10, 2005
- Work Session, January 12, 2005
- Four Cities Meeting, January 13, 2005

Approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS - Oath of Office for New Greenbelt Police Officers: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Chief James Craze introduced two new police officers to Council: Joshua Caless and Ryan Peck. The Mayor administered the oath of office to the new

officers, who introduced their family members in attendance. Council welcomed the new officers. Chief Craze said that at 54 sworn officers, the Police Department is now at the highest staffing level it has ever been. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the 54th position is the one with shared funding from Springhill Lake, which Council approved in the current year's budget.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Devin Gibson, a boy scout working on his citizenship merit badge, was introduced. Gordon Pickering spoke to say that, as a result of what he considered to be unsafe conditions under the fire code, he planned to sell his condominium and move his family to a safer dwelling this summer, though he hoped to continue to work with the county and the state on improving the code. Mayor Davis wished him and his family well.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin advised Council of a pedestrian fatality that occurred on Greenbelt Road following the snow on Saturday.

At Mr. Herling's request, Mr. McLaughlin clarified the plans for two meetings to be held by AIMCO for Springhill Lake residents and the broader community on February 2 and 3, respectively, to present initial plans for the redevelopment of Springhill Lake.

Mr. Putens suggested re-examining charges for installing new equipment on the contract with LaserCraft. He also suggested the idea of holding a work session on the budget with the City Manager and the City Treasurer prior to the development and presentation of the City Manager's proposed budget.

Ms. Mach thanked Beverly Palau for working out a system whereby tapes of City Council meetings may be borrowed by residents from the public library.

In response to a question from Mr. Herling, Mr. McLaughlin said staff had not seen any indication of a bottle-deposit bill to be introduced by the state or county.

Mayor Davis said she attended the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce Legislative Luncheon on January 13. She and Ms. Mach spoke at the press conference on alternatives to the Intercounty Connector on January 18. She said the Prince George's County Municipal Association met in Greenbelt on January 20, and she thanked staff for making the preparations. She also announced the Greenbelt Post of the American Legion would be holding an oratory contest on the U.S. Constitution at 1 p.m. on February 6.

LEGISLATION: None.

PRELIMINARY COUNTYWIDE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Terri Hruba, Assistant Director, Planning and Community Development Department, introduced Carolyn Watson of the Environmental Planning Division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Ms. Watson gave a slide presentation on the plan, but she said the public hearing would be the night of January 26 and that written comment could be submitted until February 10 for

the record. Ms. Hruby said she would both attend the hearing to speak and draft a written statement for the City to submit for the record.

Mayor Davis remarked that although it may sound impressive that 54% of the county falls into the green infrastructure, those areas are almost entirely in the developing and rural tiers, with the developed tier having eliminated almost all of its green infrastructure. Ms. Watson agreed, observing that the criterion that green parcels be at least 200' across had to be scuttled in the developed tier, since were that standard to be imposed, there effectively would be nothing left.

Mr. Roberts questioned the rationale for requiring only 50' stream buffers when buffers twice that width have been found to be inadequate in the Chesapeake Bay area.

Ms. Hruby said the county had already incorporated the areas the City had requested into the plan, so no further action was needed on that. Ms. Watson remarked that small areas that are of more local than countywide significance can be handled within sectional master plans, which would take priority. Mayor Davis and Ms. Mach both stressed the need for the county to take an active role in making municipalities aware of the need to do this, especially smaller ones without professional planning staffs.

Mayor Davis expressed concern that the plan was overly fatalistic in assuming the continued loss of green infrastructure at a fairly high rate. Ms. Watson stressed that the plan was not a county land acquisition program. She said it is voluntary and the county is trying to be realistic in terms of striking a balance between preservation and development.

Ms. Watson said she believed the plan would return to the Planning Board for further work following public comment and would then be forwarded to the County Council.

Sheldon Goldberg, 7848 Jacobs Drive, asked if the Sunrise property could be added to the plan now that the City owns it. Ms. Hruby said she thought that fell within the realm of local significance and should be handled that way.

Mr. Putens made a motion that Council support the Countywide Green Infrastructure Plan, while stressing the importance of preserving and enhancing all environmental areas, regardless of the development tier they are located in, and the need for the county to work actively with jurisdictions needing assistance in developing local plans. At Mr. Herling's suggestion, it was also to be suggested that the county set a higher standard on increasing water quality. Ms. Mach seconded the motion, which passed 5-0. Council also directed staff to pursue developing a local infrastructure plan. Mr. McLaughlin said this could be added to the work program. Ms. Hruby commented that she thought the work of the Forest Preserve Task Force would also lay some groundwork for this project.

**AGREEMENT WITH BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE IN-HOME HEALTH CARE:** Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Christal Parker Batey, Community Resource Advocate, noted a couple of corrections to the draft agreement. In response to questions from the Mayor, she said although the program would be conducted on a "first come, first served" basis, staff would reach out to people registered with the Assistance-in-Living Program who are known to be in need of services and would also

accept nominations from friends or family members of people who might be eligible. She emphasized that the program was not limited to seniors but could also serve younger people with disabilities. She said the City was fortunate that Bowie State had identified Greenbelt as a potential partner for its community nursing program and that it might be the first of such programs nationally. Council thanked Ms. Batey for her work in nurturing another successful program. It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Mr. Putens that Council approve the program and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement. The motion passed 5-0

#### STATE/COUNTY LEGISLATION

MC/PG 118-05 – Planning and Zoning Legislation: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Herling that Council convey its support for MC/PG 118-05 to the delegation. Council was in agreement that the bill had been so weakened that it would have little effect. Mr. Roberts said for that reason he would vote against it so there would not be an appearance of strong support. He said, "We deserve better." The motion passed 4-1 (Roberts).

House Bill 34 – High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes, Use by ILEV and Hybrid Vehicles: The Mayor read the agenda comments. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Mr. Roberts that Council convey its support for House Bill 34 to the delegation. The motion passed 5-0.

County Bill 96-2004 – Towing Regulation: The Mayor read the agenda comments and asked if the City should ask County Councilmember Peters to support a re-introduction of the bill. Mr. McLaughlin said staff was currently looking at whether the City would need to do its own legislation regardless of what the county did.

APPLICATIONS TO COUNTY LIVABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens made a motion that Council authorize the submission of these four projects (Commercial Area Revitalization Effort (CARE) at Roosevelt Center, Strengthening Families Program, Volunteer Coordinator, and Gateway/Entrance Signage) for consideration in the county's Livable Communities program. Mr. Herling seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. It was agreed to hold an executive session regarding the status of plans for Greenbelt Station on Thursday, February 10. March 9 was set as the date for the mid-term legislative dinner.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Herling. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of January 24, 2005, at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Gallagher

City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held January 24, 2005.@"

Judith F. Davis

Mayor

Council thereby took the following actions:

#### MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Work Session, December 8, 2004
- Interview, December 13, 2004
- Legislative Dinner, December 15, 2004
- Work Session, December 20, 2004

Approved as presented.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advisory Committee on Education, Report #06-2004 and Public Safety Advisory Committee, Report #2004-003 (Referrals on Crosswalk Study): Council accepted these two reports and referred them to staff for review and incorporation into the study, with the understanding that if there are any significant implications for the plan already approved by Council, the study will be brought back on a future agenda.

Board of Elections, Report #05-01 (Voting Machines and Services for 2005 City Election): Council accepted this report.

Public Safety Advisory Committee, Report #2004-002 (Window Guards): Council received this report and agreed to refer it to staff for review and consider it on the agenda of a future meeting.

GREENBELT BOARD OF APPEALS RESOLUTION FOR VARIANCE NO. 04-003-V: Council adopted Board of Appeals Resolution for Variance No. 04-003-V.

APPLICATIONS FOR TRANSFER OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSES: Council agreed to take a position of "no position" on the applications and direct staff to convey that to the board.

EXTENSION OF DISABILITY LEAVE: Council approved extension of disability leave for Carmen Davino through March 31, 2005.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted with regret the resignation of Helen Geller from the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUP: Council reappointed the following to the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee: James A. Bowles, Bunny Fitzgerald, and Leonie Penney.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Putens asked to add "Towing Bill" to the agenda as item #19. It was moved by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator, showed a videotape about Greenbelt that was narrated by resident Jesse Goldberg-Strassler and submitted to the Oprah Winfrey Show in the category of "great small towns to visit." Council congratulated Ms. Palau on the excellent production, which covered all the facets of the community, and praised the performance of Mr. Goldberg-Strassler.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: Chris Shuman, 1-E Gardenway, updated Council on the condition of the park area near the underpass at the Mobil station. He said although there had been many improvements, there were some ongoing erosion and landscaping problems. The Mayor said the City was aware of some problems in that area and thanked him for bringing photographs. Mr. McLaughlin added that staff was aware that some of the previous work might create new problems, and he said the area would be looked at again. Regarding illegal behaviors in the vicinity of the underpass, Capt. Thomas Kemp commented that this problem receives police attention and that progress is made but that as a particular area or underpass is cleared, the individuals move on to the next underpass or location.

At the Mayor's invitation, Peter Lomax, Boy Scout Troop 746, introduced himself and said he was present as part of his work to qualify for a merit badge for citizenship in the community.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS - December 13, 2004: Regarding the playground agreement, Mayor Davis asked to clarify that she, Ms. Mach, and Mr. Putens had disagreed with the position taken by Mr. Roberts that the draft agreement was unfair in not requiring incoming equipment to be compliant with current standards. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the minutes be approved with that correction. The motion passed 5-0.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin said Greenbelt New Year was once again a success. The count was somewhat down from last year, but last year's attendance had been exceptionally high. He said the City would be providing 14 police officers to the force required for Inauguration Day on January 20. He also reported on having attended the first meeting for this year on the County Executive's Livable Communities program and asked to receive any suggestions for projects

Ms. Mach reported on attending the Livable Communities Initiative Municipal Officials Workshop on Codes, Licenses, and Permits sponsored by the County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, with representatives from the Department of Environmental Resources on January 5.

Mr. Herling said the Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee intends to support and will seek Council's support on a bottle bill that has been proposed. It was not clear whether this was legislation that has already been introduced or not. He also said that Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) has decided that it wants to hold a four-day film festival at the Old Greenbelt Theatre the second weekend in November, which is the weekend following Veterans Day. Mr. McLaughlin said staff was looking into this.

Mayor Davis reported on attending: a meeting of the Community Advisory Council of the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable on December 14; the Concert Band's holiday concert on December 19; the County Executive's press conference on his legislative agenda on January 5; and the dedication of the new Town Hall in La Plata on January 7. She also thanked Patti Brothers and the Recreation Department for the successful Greenbelt New Year's and Mr. Moran for arranging the Legislative Dinner, which was attended by all Council and the City's county and state delegation on December 15.

Mayor Davis said she and Ms. Mach wished to ask the Board of Elections to consider instituting early voting to encourage greater voter participation and make it less necessary to vote absentee. She suggested piloting this in at least one precinct. Mr. Putens suggested the model of voting by mail early rather than having to come in and use machines.

Mayor Davis also asked Councilmember Bob Catlin from College Park to introduce himself. He briefly discussed local efforts in the training of emergency response teams through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, a federal program administered by the Prince George's County Department of Emergency Preparedness. The program is open to all county residents. Mayor Davis suggested giving the information to the Public Safety Advisory Committee in case any of the committee members were interested.

LEGISLATION: None.

FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC HEARING ON INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. She said she, Mr. Roberts, and Ms. Mach had spoken at the hearing; Mr. Putens had a work commitment. Mr. Herling said he arrived late because of attending a GATE board meeting, but he gave his impressions of the hearing and stressed that despite the feeling of inevitability attached to the project, with public support it is still possible to oppose and defeat it. He also emphasized the need for the state to make a more aggressive effort to develop a coordinated public transportation system for the region. Mayor Davis added that written comments would continue to be received until February 15, and she encouraged Mr. Herling and any interested citizens who had not spoken at the hearing to send their comments in. Mr. McLaughlin added that Delegate Gaines had suggested there might not be support in the House Appropriations Committee for commitment of 30 years' worth of funding for this project. He suggested this might be a target or focus for comments.

COUNTY HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Chief Jim Craze noted the great value of having defibrillators in police cars, since the police are usually the first responders. Mr. Putens made a motion that Council approve the grant application. Mr. Herling seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

AWARD OF PURCHASE – POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Chief Craze said the need for the four-wheel drive vehicles was because the Police Department comes to a standstill in bad weather. Mr. McLaughlin said that the City would get these vehicles at the same cost as police cruisers. Chief Craze added that they get better mileage than the police cruisers. It was moved by Mr. Herling and seconded by Mr. Putens that Council approve the purchase of three Chevy Trailblazer SUVs from Criswell Chevrolet of Gaithersburg, at a total cost of \$67,908. The motion passed 5-0.

COUNTY TOWING BILL: Mr. Putens said a report would be coming shortly from the Public Safety Advisory Committee asking for Council's support on a towing bill to be introduced to the County Council. He moved, with a second from Mr. Herling, that Council convey its support for the bill; after some discussion, the motion was amended to say Council support for the bill was contingent upon its being essentially the same as last year's bill (CB-096-2004). The motion passed 5-0

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. A Planning Department staff briefing for Council on Springhill Lake plans was added to the list of meetings to be scheduled, as well as stakeholder meetings with the civic associations and the County Executive.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Herling. The motion carried 5-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of January 10, 2005, at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held January 10, 2005.@"

Judith F. Davis

Mayor